

B10  
concl.

- pushing at least one of the three insulated conductors so as to make the supporting rope accessible from the outside;
- hooking the supporting rope by a hooking means;
- extracting the supporting rope by the hooking means from the wound insulated conductors for a predetermined length;
- clamping the extracted length of the supporting rope by a mooring means;
- releasing the supporting rope from the hooking means; and
- suspending the cable to sustaining structures of the overhead line by the mooring means.


#### REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are currently pending. The claims have been amended to conform them to U.S. practice and to eliminate multiple claim dependency. Claim 29 has been amended to correct a typographical error. No new matter has been added by this Preliminary Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 20, 2001

By:   
Ernest F. Chapman  
Reg. No. 25,96

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com



APPENDIX TO CORRECTED PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT OF MARCH 20, 2002

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

RECEIVED  
MAR 21 2002  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

2. (Amended) Cable according to claim 1, wherein the material of said tubular structure is selected from [the group comprising:] (a) metals, (b) metal alloys, and (c) high-modulus polymers.
4. (Amended) Cable according to claim 2, wherein said high-modulus polymers comprise polypropylene, modified polypropylene, polybutylene terephthalate, polyether imides [and] or polyether sulphones.
6. (Amended) Cable according to claim 5, wherein said expanded polymer is selected from (a) olefin polymers [or] and (b) olefin copolymers.
8. (Amended) Cable according to [anyone of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the ratio between the diameter of said supporting rope and the diameter of each insulated conductor is predetermined so as to make said rope extractable from said helically wound insulated conductors.

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com

11. (Amended) Cable according to [anyone of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the insulated conductors are wound around said supporting rope with a predetermined pitch so as to make the cable self-sustaining.

13. (Amended) Cable according to [anyone of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the supporting structure comprises an armour comprising one or more layers of metal wires helically stranded around said tubular structure.

17. (Amended) Cable according to [anyone of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein said supporting structure is coated by an electrically insulating layer.

18. (Amended) Cable according to [anyone of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein said optical fibre element comprises a central reinforcing element around which one or more tubular elements, containing one or more optical fibres immersed in a buffering filler, are disposed.

19. (Amended) Cable according to [anyone of claims 1 to 17] claim 1, wherein said optical fibre element comprises a central reinforcing element around which is disposed a grooved core in which are formed externally one or more grooves which extend longitudinally along the outer surface of said core, said grooves being filled with a buffering filler in which one or more optical fibres are housed.

20. (Amended) Cable according to [anyone of claims 1 to 17] claim 1, wherein said optical fibre element comprises a tubular element containing one or more optical fibres immersed in a buffering filler.

22. (Amended) Optical fibre element according to claim 21, [characterized in that] wherein said polymeric material is selected from (a) olefin polymers [or] and (b) olefin copolymers.

23. (Amended) Optical fibre element according to claim 22, [characterized in that] wherein said polymeric material comprises polypropylene.

24. (Amended) Optical fibre element according to [anyone of the claims from] claim 21, [to 23, characterized in that] wherein said polymeric material has a degree of expansion from 20% to 3000%.

25. (Amended) Optical fibre element according to claim 24, [characterized in that] wherein said polymeric material has a degree of expansion from 30% to 500%.

26. (Amended) Optical fibre element according to [anyone of the claims from] claim 21 [to 25], wherein before expansion said polymeric material has a flexural modulus at room temperature between 200 and 2000 MPa.

Claim 29, line 13, change "lenght" to --length--, and

29. (Amended) Method for suspending a hybrid electrical-optical cable to an overhead line, said cable comprising:

- three insulated phase conductors helically wound around a supporting rope,
- a tubular structure made of a high mechanical modulus material suitable for containing at least one optical element, and
- a supporting structure placed externally to said tubular structure,

wherein said method comprises:

- pushing at least one of the three insulated conductors so as to make the supporting rope accessible from the outside;
- hooking the supporting rope by a hooking means;

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com

- extracting the supporting rope by the hooking means from the wound insulated conductors for a predetermined length;
- clamping the extracted [length] length of the supporting rope by a mooring means;
- releasing the supporting rope from the hooking means; and
- suspending the cable to sustaining structures of the overhead line by the mooring means.

FINNEGAN  
HENDERSON  
FARABOW  
GARRETT &  
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.408.4000  
Fax 202.408.4400  
www.finnegan.com